Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, at lines 10-17, please amend the specification as follows.

This application is a National Phase application of PCT/US01/18611 filed on June 8, 2001, ~~to be~~ published in English, which claims priority from United States patent application 09/591,642, filed June 9, 2000, and is a continuation of United States patent application 09/591,642, filed June 9, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application 09/244,340 to Toh et al., filed February 4, 1999 and U.S. patent application 09/372,954 to Toh et al., filed August 12, 1999, the subject matter of each being incorporated herein by reference. This application also relates to U.S. patent 5,646,046 to Fischer et al., the subject matter of which is incorporated herein by reference.

On page 41, at lines 7-8, please amend the specification as follows.

Figures 37 through **50** [[55]] illustrate further features of the present invention.

On page 50, at lines 8-21, please amend the specification as follows.

A method for diagnosing a condition of a patient involves the steps of (a) adding one or more reagents to a test sample from a patient, the test samples comprising at least part of a blood sample from the patient, in order to cause formation of a complex comprising at least one acute phase protein ~~at~~ and at least one human lipoprotein, while causing substantially no fiber polymerization; (b) measuring the formation of the complex over time so as to derive a time-dependent measurement profile, and (c) determining a slope and/or total change in the time-dependent measurement profile, so as to diagnose a condition of the patient. A greater formation of the complex is correlated to increased probability of death of the patient.